

Fw: West Lake Landfill

Craig Smith to: Dan Gravatt

Cc: Audrey Asher, DeAndre Singletary

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Craig W. Smith, P.E.
Senior Engineer and Policy Coordinator
Superfund Division
USEPA Region 7 Kansas City
(913) 551-7683

----- Forwarded by Craig Smith/SUPR/R7/USEPA/US on 02/15/2012 12:20 PM -----

From: John Frisco/R2/USEPA/US
To: Amy Legare/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Andy Zownir/ERT/R2/USEPA/US@epa, Cami Grandinetti/R10/USEPA/US@epa, Carlos Sanchez/R6/USEPA/US@epa, Charles Openchowski/DC/USEPA/US@epa, Christina Skaar/DC/USEPA/US@epa, Craig Smith/SUPR/R7/USEPA/US@epa, David Jewett/ADA/USEPA/US@epa, Ed Barth/CI/USEPA/US@epa, John Chesnutt/R9/USEPA/US@epa, Linda Dietz/R3/USEPA/US@epa, Lois Gartner/DC/USEPA/US@epa, Mark Sprenger/ERT/R2/USEPA/US@epa, Michael Sivak/R2/USEPA/US@epa, Mike Jasinski/R1/USEPA/US@epa, Peter Ludzia/R3/USEPA/US@epa, REBECCA FREY/R5/USEPA/US@epa, Richard Campbell/R4/USEPA/US@epa, Ron Wilhelm/DC/USEPA/US@epa, Stanley Christensen/R8/USEPA/US@epa, Timothy Mott/DC/USEPA/US@epa, Timothy Prendiville/R5/USEPA/US@epa
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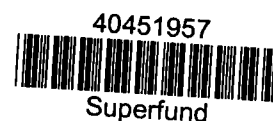
Let's try this again -- I accidentally hit the send button prematurely. As I started to say, I'll be away next week and will miss the pre-review call and wanted to offer a few thoughts in preparation for the actual review. To begin with, there is a lot of information on the website -- I've only gotten through a portion of it so far and am basing my comments on what I have seen. Given the volume of material, it's important that the board have good understanding of the site and what's gone on there over the years which I hope can be accomplished via a webinar vs a face-to-face meeting (which might have been preferable in this case).

When it comes to possibly removing material from within a landfill, the most important factor is its location -- do you know where it is and can you safely and efficiently retrieve it? Radiological contamination remains active for a very long time and would require long-term management wherever it ends up. For this reason, where possible, we try to send such material to facilities designed specifically for this purpose (e.g., Idaho, Utah). If one could safely and efficiently extract the radiological waste, that might be an option worth consideration. Unfortunately, the location of the waste is at issue.

The NRC report identifies a relatively definitive waste location not too deep in the landfill. In contrast, the RI suggests the radiological contamination is much more wide-spread. According to some documents, the radiological material was brought to the landfill in one event. This would tend to support the NRC study results about the location of the radiological waste. If the waste was shipped to the landfill during its operation over a number of years, one would expect to find it throughout the landfill -- both horizontally and vertically. One of the key questions for the region is to better explain the RI results given the manner in which the radiological material arrived at the landfill.

One additional observation -- the removal numbers (volume and cost) may be somewhat high since I believe they assume transporting all excavated waste to an off-site commercial facility. We have considerable experience in cleaning up sites with radiological contamination here and have found that field instruments can quickly and accurately allow for the separation of the radiological materials. This reduces both the volume and cost of off-site disposal.

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Again -- for the webinar, the region should be prepared to describe how the site operated and, in particular, to reconcile the conflicting results and conclusions of the two investigative efforts. It's possible that this information is already included among that put up on the website that I have not read yet. However, since I'm not going to be around, I wanted to highlight this one point for further discussion and clarification given its importance in this case.

Thanks.